

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

The Honorable James O. Eastland
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Eastland:

I am writing to confirm our conversation of last evening regarding the exercise of the parole authority vested in me to permit the entry into the United States of certain South Vietnamese and Cambodians. I am grateful for your co-operation and concurrence in this matter.

As we discussed, I received late yesterday afternoon from Henry A. Kissinger, as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, an urgent request for the immediate parole of:

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1. Up to [] "high risk" Vietnamese refugees, and their families. These would include past and present U. S. government employees, Vietnamese officials whose co-operation is necessary for the evacuation of American citizens, individuals with knowledge of sensitive U. S. government intelligence operations, vulnerable political or intellectual figures and former Communist defectors;
2. Vietnamese nationals who are immediate relatives of American citizens or permanent resident aliens, estimated to number between []
3. Vietnamese already at Clark Air Force base provided they qualify as high risk individuals;
4. Approximately [] Cambodians now in Thailand who had been evacuated from Cambodia by the U. S.; and

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DOJ REFERRED TO NSC & DOS DOJ review(s) completed. State Dept. review completed

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5. Approximately Cambodian diplomats in third countries facing forcible return or expulsion.

The President agreed that parole is desirable for the foregoing classes. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was advised in writing on April 18, 1975 of the proposal to parole those listed in categories 2 through 5, although at that time the request regarding Clark Air Force base was limited to 100.

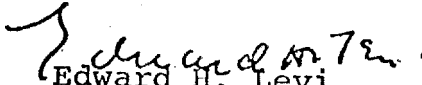
We were advised that it was deemed essential to begin at once to assist the departure from Vietnam of appropriate individuals if such an effort were to be orderly and successful. However, there was reluctance to initiate such a program without the assurance that those so assisted could, if necessary, be admitted to the United States.

The foregoing was discussed with you and Senator Hruska and, as indicated, the Departments of State and Defense were prepared to assist in providing you with an immediate briefing on the developments which generated this request for parole. We greatly appreciate your concurrence on behalf of the Committee regarding the parole of the classes described above. Your counterparts in the House of Representatives also concurred in this proposal and I have exercised the parole power to authorize the entry of those classes.

We are advised, however, that every effort will be made to obtain international assistance for all Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees and to arrange their resettlement in third countries.

I regret that events have been such that it was necessary to take up these matters with you in this manner last evening. I greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,


Edward H. Levi
Attorney General